

# Music in the Mishkan

AN INTERVIEW WITH RANDY WEISS

**JGF: You will be playing in this concert yourself—you are an amazing violinist.** “Thank you—and yes, the concerts are performed by The Bridge Players, an ensemble I founded a few years ago. Performers include Victoria Ehrlich (cello), Marilyn Thompson (piano), Ginger Kroft Barnettson (clarinet), Leslie Ludena (violin), Natalia Vershilova (viola), Vanesso Ruotolo (cello), (continued on page 5)





# From the Rabbi's Study



**THE GREAT** Yiddish author, Y.L. Peretz wrote, "The whole world is nothing more than a singing and dancing before the Holy Blessed One, and every Jew is a singer before God, and every letter in the Torah is a musical note."

Our tradition calls out song particularly on Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song. On this Sabbath we read the story of our escape from Pharaoh, including the parting of the sea (Exodus 13:17-17:16). After the Israelites reached the other side, Torah tells us they sang to celebrate, and gives us two different versions of their song, one offered by Moses, the other sung by Miriam.

Since the 1970s, we have increasingly recognized the importance of Miriam's role as a leader of the Israelites, but the harmony of Moses and Miriam, singing together, has had new resonance for me this season, as we welcome my colleague, Cantor Sharon Bernstein, to our congregation. I am reminded that, in Jewish tradition, we do not expect that only one person will be our "leader" or our teacher. Rather, from the multi-vocal texture of Talmud to the requirement of a minyan for group prayer, we are taught that we benefit from listening to the voices of many teachers.

I have long sought a fellow clergy member to learn from and to learn with at Sha'ar Zahav. Cantor Bernstein has so much to offer all of us:

Cantor Bernstein is a gifted artist, poet and thoughtful spiritual presence who increases the *kedushah*, the sense of the sacred, that we experience in prayer. So often it is music that helps us rise up and experience this moment of miracle. It is a blessing to be able to partner with someone who brings this gift to our spiritual life.

Cantor Bernstein is an inspiring teacher who is eager to help lay leaders develop their own abilities to create a sense of awe and grandeur in the prayer service. Through classes and mentoring, she will be able to deepen our culture of participation.

Cantor Bernstein will be able to assist me in strengthen-

ing and sustaining our community. The Alban Institute recommends that for every 100 people who are active in congregational life, the institution in order to remain vital needs one full-time clergy person. Clergy's primary role is to bring people closer to Judaism and to support Jewish spiritual journeys. These relationships take time to build and deepen, so I am glad to be able to share that joyful work with someone else.

There is an interesting story about the song of the sea that we sing on Shabbat Shira. The best known part of this song is probably the words "Mi kamokha b'elim Adonai/ mi kamokha n'edar b'kodesh," (Who is like You, God, among the mighty? Who is like You, majestic in holiness?) words we sing in the liturgy during every service. In Torah, there are no vowels or consonant markings, of course, but in our tradition when the word "kamocha" appears in this passage it is written with two different vocalizations, the first time as "k," and the second time as "ch." Why?

A midrash reminds us that the Israelites were afraid to jump into the sea until a man named Nacshon jumped in. At the moment the Israelites followed Nacshon's courageous leap of faith, the midrash says, they sang out the first mi "ch"amocka, "Who is like you, O God?" Then, however, they fell under the waves and started to choke, and the "ch" became a "k." For that one moment, the people thought they were drowning—until the waves parted and they were saved.

What the midrash teaches us is that the moment between death and salvation is a just a gulp of breath away. It can be that subtle. Prayer can sustain us during that leap of faith, that moment of doubt.

Here at Sha'ar Zahav, we already love singing with each other. Everyone who comes to services, as a lay leader or as a participant in prayer, has taken that first step into the sea. Please join us for Shabbat Shira as we welcome the arrival of Cantor Bernstein.

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# Whose Shul Is It?



**ONE OF THE** most wonderful things about Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is our tremendous diversity. Our membership continues to be primarily gay, lesbian and bisexual, but we have growing numbers of transgender members, and also heterosexuals. Our community includes persons who are single, those in coupled relationships and families with children. About half of our congregation identify as women, about half as men, and others do not easily fit into these binary categories. We come from a wide range of socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and a variety of approaches to our observance of Judaism.

Recognizing the beauty and strength of this gift of diversity, the authors of the Sha'ar Zahav Rosh Hashanah makhzor wrote this invocation over twenty-five years ago:

Hinei Mah Tov! How good it is to gather, in a rainbow of affections and sexual preferences, in the house of a God who loves each of us as we are created, who loves without limit and forever. How sweet it is to gather, women and men together, in the house of a God who transcends human limits and categories. How pleasant it is to gather, Jews and non-Jews together, in the house of a God who hears the prayers of all peoples. How fine it is to gather, people with firm beliefs together with people with questions in our hearts, in the house of a God who values deeds of caring and justice far above the recitation of creeds.

However the diversity of our synagogue is not only a gift; it also poses one of our greatest challenges. With members from so many different backgrounds, it is easier for communication problems and conflicts to arise. Compared to more homogenous organizations, individual members of such a diverse synagogue may find it more difficult to have their needs met.

As a result of this, it sometimes feels as if Sha'ar Zahav is uniquely skilled at enabling all of our various demographic subgroups to each feel equally disenfranchised. To a certain degree, the complaints and concerns expressed seem to have the effect of zeroing out each other. The families with young

kids feel that their children are not welcome at services and events, while older members and those with no kids express a concern that the congregation overly caters to families with children. LGBT members complain that we are losing our "queer edginess" while some heterosexual members worry that they are invisible and not wanted. Gay men experience our synagogue as being overly led by women with programming that does not interest men, while women members are troubled by a weakening of our commitment to feminism. We are too Zionist; we are anti-Israel. Our services have too much Hebrew, or too much English. We should conduct services with more traditional liturgy; we should have more classical Reform services. We are not welcoming to lower income congregants; we are not welcoming to upper income congregants.

It has been suggested that the different subgroups in our congregation are like family members who think everyone else is getting treated better than they are. Perhaps we need more "family" meetings to create dialogue between these different demographic groups within CSZ. In talking together, and more importantly, listening to one another, we can learn how to truly be a community together.

There is a theory of organizational management, which as its model uses the doughnut, but for purposes of Sha'ar Zahav I believe the analogy works better with a bagel. Each of the congregation's diverse demographic subgroups is sitting around the edge, pointing at the powerbase in the center of the organization which has caused the feelings of disempowerment. But note that the center of the bagel is empty.

Do you have an idea about how to make our services more spiritually meaningful for you? Our ritual committee would love to have your input. Is our programming not meeting your needs? Perhaps you could volunteer some of your time to help create a program that would more speak to you. Have a complaint? Then please volunteer and help us improve our shul. There is no "them" here at CSZ, only "us," all of us who together are the dough which forms the bagel which is our shul. And we need everyone making up the dough to pitch in and help make our shul a yummier, chewier bagel.

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*The Jewish Gaily Forward* is published six times a year by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Permission to reprint with attribution is granted. Articles reflect the opinion of their authors and not those of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Proofing errors will be atoned for each Yom Kippur.

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# What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

group, facilitated by Rose Katz and Andrew Ramer, will explore issues that arise for people who are considering, or are in the process of, converting to Judaism. People who have recently completed the conversion process but would like to connect with a group to discuss these issues are also welcome. Participants must have met at least once with Rabbi Angel prior to enrolling in this class. To enroll, please contact [greg@shaarzahav.org](mailto:greg@shaarzahav.org).

**12 SESSIONS, 7:00-9:00 PM**

**MONDAYS, JAN 7-MAR 17**

**Torah II: Exodus.** Taught by Reb Kaplan. Covering a chapter each week, covering the book of Exodus. Contact [greg@shaarzahav.org](mailto:greg@shaarzahav.org) for details on class cost.

**SATURDAY JAN 5, 12:30-3:00**

**SUNDAY, JAN 6, 10:00-2:00**

**SUNDAY MEETING IS OFFSITE**

**Siddur: Letters of Creation.** The universe was created with the 22 letters of the alefbet. Our siddur will honor each letter with your decoration. Jeanette Nichols will be leading two more workshops in which you can choose a letter and illuminate its simple, allusive, insightful or secret meaning. Sunday we will meet in the East Bay at 3865 Forest Hill Ave, Oakland. Call 510-967-5542 for directions.

**4 WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY: 6, 13, 20, AND 27; 7:00-8:30 PM**

**In Their Footsteps—The Creation of Folkdance in Modern Israel.** This course studies early Israeli dance makers and how they were influenced by biblical passages as well as Yemenite, Hassidic, Arab, Druze and Bedouin traditions to create Israeli dance. Along with viewing archival film footage, participants will learn Yiddish and Hasidic dance, thrilling Arabic debbkas, and classic Israeli dances. For more details contact Bruce Bierman at 415 246-1370 or [jewishdance@yahoo.com](mailto:jewishdance@yahoo.com)

**TUESDAYS, FEB 12, MAR 11 AND**

**MAR 25, 7-9 PM**

**Jewish and Gay Culture in Present-Day Poland and Czech Republic.** Join scholar and writer Shana Penn, Director of the Jewish Heritage Initiative in Poland, for three sessions about Jewish and gay life in Central Europe. Cost is \$36 for 3 sessions. For a more complete description of the sessions, email Karen Schiller at [kschiller@igc.org](mailto:kschiller@igc.org).

**THURSDAY FEB 21, 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Festival Trope! Chanting Shir HaShirim and Ruth; Taught by Reuben Zellman.**

Calling all of our leyners! If you know how to chant Torah, Haftarah, or any other trope system, you are encouraged to join in the fun of learning a new system—or perhaps just learning one new passage. This session will introduce us to materials for learning the beautiful 3 Festivals cantillation system, used for chanting Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) on Sukkot, Shir haShirim (the Song of Songs) for Passover, and the Book of Ruth on Shavuot. Participants will get assignments for chanting at CSZ for Pesach and Shavuot. Questions? Contact Reuben Zellman, (415) 861-6932 ext. 306, or [reuben@shaarzahav.org](mailto:reuben@shaarzahav.org). This class is free.

**g3mh**

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Contact David Gellman

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(continued from page 1) Rick Shinozaki (violin), Peter Gelfand (cello) and William Everett (double bass).

**JGF: What pieces will you be playing in the other two Mishkan concerts?**

The first concert is a program of piano trios (piano, violin and cello). The central piece is by Richard Danielpoor, also a young Jewish composer.

**JGF: So we are very young and hip this year.**

We are in the first two concerts. In the third concert, the featured composer will be Darius Milhaud, who passed away in the 1970s, but he has a local connection: he taught at Mills College for many, many years.

**JGF: When did you start Music in the Mishkan?**

I started Music in the Mishkan when we moved to Mishkan Dolores because the space is so acoustically wonderful. From the beginning, I decided I would highlight a Jewish composer, known or unknown.

For many years, I chose a Holocaust composer—someone interned at the camps. I had a visceral connection to these composers because my teacher, Paul Kling, was also interred at Theresienstadt and knew those composers. But since we played an entire program of Holocaust composers last year, I decided this year to choose other twentieth century composers we hadn't yet featured.

**JGF: What inspires you to play Jewish music? I mean, there are a lot of professional Jewish musicians who don't choose to play Jewish music, who keep their religious life and their secular life separate.**

Well, to defend my peers, there are more Jewish musicians than Jewish composers. That was always true. Just look at the nineteenth century. Ninety percent of the great violinists and pianists of the late nineteenth century were Jewish.

**JGF: Even so, you've made a conscious choice to play Jewish music.**

I made a conscious choice in terms of the Holocaust composers because of Paul. Also, these composers died before their time and I thought they deserved a hearing.

About the other Jewish composers—I did it out of curiosity as much as anything else. As I've become more involved in the religious and ritual life of Sha'ar Zahav, I became more curious about whether there was anything Jewishly spiritual about the works of these composers, most of whom are not well known (except Mendelssohn). I don't know that I have found anything Jewish about these works, except for Golijov, who specifically writes in a Jewish style and uses Jewish liturgical music. I had hoped I would find something more specifically Jewish about the other works, but I haven't. They are really just good pieces of music.

Certainly, as someone presenting a chamber music series at a synagogue, I thought I should program Jewish composers. And it always makes for good programming because most of these pieces are unfamiliar, and good programming is about putting the unfamiliar and familiar together. We do

that at services all the time. One of the reasons we hired a cantor was so that she could teach us new ways to worship and daven.

**JGF: You are a person who really takes in the world through hearing. Why is it better to intersperse the unfamiliar with the familiar? Isn't the familiar meditative?**

Let me give you an example. One of the more exciting places in the liturgy is "L'cha Dodi" because at Sha'ar Zahav we don't know which verses we will be singing or which tune we will be using. I would love to go further: let's sing all nine verses and switch melodies in the middle.

I also would hope that we begin to sing more psalms in Kabbalat Shabbat services, learn more tunes, and as a community become more adept at nusach.

**JGF: You are helping with that by putting together the Shacharit service for our updated siddur.**

For various reasons, our current siddur has eliminated many of the prayers and poems from the beginning of the Shacharit service. We are going to put some of that traditional material back in, and that will give us a chance to learn more melodies too. Cantor Bernstein has been very helpful in guiding us in this process.

**JGF: One thing I like is that each service has its own niggun, so you can close your eyes and know which service you are in. We say Judaism is uniquely based on time rather than space, but we also mark these differences musically.**

Those musical differences are based on time. We mark time by watching the new moon and full moon, which repeats over and over again. And we count. The most familiar example is the counting of the omer between Pesach and Shavuot. So it's not surprising that we treat sound in the same way that we treat time. We sing one tune in the morning and one tune in the afternoon and the next day it starts all over again, then we have different tunes for Shabbat, for the High Holy Days, and so on.

**JGF: We can learn a lot from you, Randy.**

Oh Please! I've been a member of Sha'ar Zahav since 1981. I am a gentleman of a certain age—you can print that! I was rather uninvolved my first fifteen or so years. Then I started getting more involved both in the musical life and the religious life of my community. The more involved I became, the more naches I got from it, and the more I learned—I felt better about my community and myself. I guess you could say that what I do at Sha'ar Zahav, I do for selfish reasons: it makes me feel good. But you can't print that.

**JGF: Why not? That's why we all do it. We shouldn't lie about the fact that volunteering and participating makes us feel good.**

I guess so. In that case I would then say, every single Sha'ar Zahavnik should become way more selfish and way more involved in the life of our shul.

**JGF: Thanks Randy.**



# Shalom Families!

**LIFE AT** Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer has been going swimmingly. I am so pleased with the classes, the Galei Limudim (learning waves), and getting to know all of you and your families. In this column, I wanted to address an aspect of Beit Sefer that often raises a few questions for parents and students: the B'nei mitzvah process at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer.

While I hope the B'nei Mitzvah process is not the culmination of Jewish study for students—the spiritual quest class awaits!—I do see it as a goal and marker of accomplishment. I have been impressed by the *kavanah* (intention) and *ruach* (spirit) that Sha'ar Zahav offers in supports of each Bnei Mitzvah as they work towards that goal.

Talking *tachlis* (the practical), for a moment, let me outline what you can expect in your child's Bnei Mitzvah journey.

Throughout their education at Beit Sefer, your children have been acquiring the skills (Hebrew, Prayers etc) to become competent daveners (prayer leaders)

Roughly 18 months before they become B'nei Mitzvah, they will be assigned a mentor. The mentor is typically a member of the congregation who will support your child in learning their prayers and their Torah portion. Mentor and child typically meet once or twice a month in the first year and then build to up to once a week four to six months out before the big day. You are not obligated to use a mentor through the temple, but we encourage it as it builds community.

Also 18 months beforehand ...Pick a date !!!

Six months beforehand you will meet with the Rabbi. Your child will also have up to six meeting with Andrew Ramer and his team of drash coaches to create their special, super-secret drash.

Closer to the date, you will meet with the Rabbi again to discuss the event, and meet a third time to go through the dress rehearsal.

My role as educator is to field questions, coordinate, hold hands and support, so please don't hesitate to call with any questions big or small. You also should be aware that there is a small B'nei

Mitzvah fee that covers many of the costs that extend beyond the classroom. I'm also working with Regina on a guidebook that will explain how to host an oneg at the shul, and the costs associated with that. Many parents do host events outside the shul, and find it helpful to talk with other parents in organizing these events.

That pretty much covers the tachlis (and the food), so I want to finish with the real nourishment of the B'nei Mitzvah experience. While I think we are all in agreement that adulthood in this postmodern era doesn't really start until maybe our thirties, one of the most meaningful aspects of being a part of this community is that those who have had their B'nei Mitzvah continue to have many ways to plug into the Sha'ar Zahav community:

1. Joining the Rabbi's spiritual quest class
2. Becoming a member of the Galie Limundim
3. Joining the Congregational Education Board
4. Leading services or chanting Torah at service
5. Being a madrich at Beit Sefer
6. Being a part of an SFOP listening campaign

I am so honored to be a part of this process with your children and I can't wait to see the Jewish adults that they will become!!!

See you at school,  
L'shalom,  
Rebecca

## CALENDAR

### FAMILY

**FRIDAY, JAN 4, 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**FRIDAY, FEB 1, 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Friday Night Live.** Design for children ages 0-6, this monthly Family Shabbat Service includes a short, song-filled service followed by dinner. We provide pizza, but please bring a veggie dish to share. If you wish to sponsor this, or a future FNL dinner, please contact the synagogue office, 415-861-6932.

**JANUARY 26, 10:00-12:00**

**Tu B'shevat Family Celebration.**

Tu B'shevat is the New Year for Trees, but it can also be thought of as the original Earth Day. Jews traditionally eat fruits and plant trees on Tu B'shevat. The kabbalists (and later the hippies) held Tu B'shevat seders to celebrate the fruits of the earth. This year, Sha'ar Zahav is going to use Tu B'shevat as a chance to go green. Please start thinking of how we can make the shul more "green" and how you can go "green" at your home this year. Look for more information soon, or contact Rebecca Weiner at 415-861-6932x302 or [Rebecca@shaarzahav.org](mailto:Rebecca@shaarzahav.org)

## BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>JAN 2</b> No Wednesday Class	<b>JAN 19</b> No Shabbat Class	<b>FEB 2</b> Shabbat Class	<b>FEB 20</b> No Wednesday Class
<b>JAN 5</b> Shabbat Class	<b>JAN 23</b> Wednesday Class & Spiritual Quest Class	<b>FEB 6</b> Wednesday Class	<b>FEB 23</b> Shabbat Class: Celebration of Learning
<b>JAN 9</b> Wednesday Class & Spiritual Quest Class	<b>JAN 26</b> Family, Beit Sefer and Spiritual Quest Tu B'Shevat Celebration	<b>FEB 9</b> Shabbat Class	<b>FEB 27</b> Wednesday Class & Spiritual Quest Class
<b>JAN 12</b> Shabbat Class	<b>JAN 30</b> Wednesday Class	<b>FEB 13</b> Wednesday Class & Spiritual Quest Class	
<b>JAN 16</b> Wednesday Class		<b>FEB 16</b> No Shabbat Class	





## EAST BAY CHAVURAH LIVES AGAIN BY RICHARD WEINER

Some of you remember the days when those of us who just can't motivate ourselves to cross the bridge on a Friday night held once-a-month services (and sometimes potlucks and sometimes song sessions) in each other's East Bay homes and got a chance to share Shabbat together.

Those days are coming back! Inspired by our Elul Listening Campaign a few of us have gotten together to put the East Bay Chavurah back together, with a new structure and renewed energy.

Beginning in January '08, we will meet the 2nd Friday of each month at 6 pm for a vegetarian potluck meal in someone's home. We'll share blessings and something from our week and sing and eat and enjoy each other. At around 7:30—when the kids are done for the day (children of all ages are always invited)—those adults and teens who want are invited to continue our Shabbat experience with some text-based meaningful Jewish dialogue. By 9:00 we'll wrap up and go on to other Shabbat pleasures.

Our first East Bay Chavurah Shabbat

will be at the home of Sue Bojdak and Deb Yates (and Itai and Naftali) on January 11th at 4326 Atlas Ave. off of Redwood Rd. in Oakland (note: the house has steps and a cat). The next could be at your house. In fact we are booking hosts for our first 6 months. If you are interested in hosting, please let one of us know ("us" being Sue Bojdak, Jim Greenberg, Terry Fletcher and Richard Weiner).

Whether you host or not, we hope you will all join us often for this com-

munal Shabbat celebration! Members in other parts of the Bay are also welcome! Unless our homes become too crowded, we also welcome non-members who want to check out Sha'ar Zahav.

Looking forward to sharing Shabbat with you in the coming year!

If you plan on coming to our first gathering on January 11th, please RSVP to Sue at Deb Yates/Sue Bojdak [bojdakyates@sbcglobal.net] or 510-530-9955

## BEIT SEFER GOES TO SHUL

My how we've grown. One family here, one family there, and now we are bursting out of the Oneg room.

Starting January 1, Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer will hold its opening circle in the sanctuary on the second floor at 9:30 am. Saturday morning services will begin in the sanctuary at 10:15. Torah Study will meet at 9:00 am down in the Oneg room.

Got it? Confused persons should contact Rebecca Weiner at [educator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:educator@shaarzahav.org)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		23 TEVET 5768 6:30 pm Ma'ariv New Year's Day, office closed	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm SFOP meeting	6:00 pm Friday Night Live 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Torah Class 7:00 pm Choosing Judaism	1 SHEVAT 5768 6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	Service Leaders: Rabbi Angel Cantor Bernstein Kevin Johnson	Service Leaders: Cantor Bernstein Andy Fyne
6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6	8	2	3	4	5
					Service Leaders: Reuben Zellman Aaron Danzig	Service Leaders: TBA
6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Torah Class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm How to Chant Torah	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	Shabbat Shira Synaplex Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 8:00 pm Cantor Unplugged: A Concert with Cantor Sharon Bernstein
					Service Leaders: Cantor Bernstein Rabbi Angel	Service Leaders: Reuben Zellman
6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Office Closed	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm How to Chant Torah	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	7:30 pm Shabbat Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
					Service Leaders: Rabbi Angel Aaron Danzig	Service Leaders: TBA
6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Torah Class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm How to Chant Torah 7:00 pm E. European trip class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv		



6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Torah Class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm How to Chant Torah	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Israeli Dance Class	1 ADAR I 5768 6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm SFOP meeting	6:00 pm Friday Night Live 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4:00 pm Music in the Mishkan 6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Torah Class 7:00 pm Choosing Judaism	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm How to Chant Torah	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Israeli Dance Class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Family Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Tot Shabbat
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv President's Day Office Closed	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm How to Chant Torah 7:00 pm Jews and Gay Culture in Eastern Europe	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Israeli Dance Class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting 7:00 pm Festival Trope class	7:30 pm Shabbat Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
6:30 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Torah Class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm How to Chant Torah 7:00 pm E. European trip class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Israeli Dance Class	6:30 pm Ma'ariv	7:30 pm Shabbat Service	
24	25	26	27	28	29	



## AIDS Fund

**Arnie Jackson** In memory of  
Richard Wright.

## Chai-BSPM

**Eileen Lynette**

## Chai-Cantor

**Anonymous**

**Lynn Eden & Ruth Schoenbach** In  
memory of Lynn's mother, Naomi  
Segall Eden.  
In memory of Ruth's father of blessed  
memory, Uriel H. Schoenbach.

## Chai-Siddur

**Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman**

## Chesir/Stein Music

**Avraham Giannini** In honor of  
Antony Russell.

## General Fund

**Steve Abensohn**

**Bryna Adelson**

**Allan Berenstein** In memory of  
Harry Berenstein.

**James Carlson** In memory of  
Arthur Cohen  
In honor of the birth of Frank Leff-Post.

**Henry Carrey** In memory of his  
grandparents, Hinde & Rivn Kirzhner.

**Paul Cohen &**

**Bob Gutterman** In honor of Ron  
Edelman on the occasion of his Yovel  
bar mitzvah.

**Congregation Rodef Sholom** In honor of  
Paul Cohen and his teaching to Rodef  
Sholom's Open Tent Committee.

**James Edlin & Eve Meyer**

In memory of Hilda L. & Marion Meyer.  
In memory of Hans & Hilda Meyer.

**Jonathan Funk** In honor of Martin  
Tannenbaum and Marianne Balin.

**Avraham Giannini** For the New Siddur.

**Avi Goldberg & Will Garcia**

**Batya Kalis** In honor of Ron Edelman on  
the 50th anniversary of his bar mitzvah.  
In memory of Esther Kalis. In honor of  
Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

**Jean Katz** In honor of Lisa Katz &  
Sharon Heath.

**Arlene Leff** In memory of Jack  
Zuckerman.  
In honor of the birth of  
Frank Michael Post.

**Susan Leff & Brad Post** In honor of  
Rabbi Angel for Frank's Brit Milah  
In honor of Paul Cohen & Bob  
Gutterman for Frank's Brit Milah.

**Merle Malakoff & Gina Surber** In honor  
of Andrew Ramer for Max's bar  
mitzvah.

**David Margit** In honor of Walter  
Steirman's Special Birthday.

**Steven Mazer** In honor of Ron Edelman's  
50th anniversary of his bar mitzvah.

**Ron & Ruth Miguel** In honor of Ron  
Edelman's 50th bar mitzvah.

**Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz** In  
memory of Gladys Inlander.  
In memory Jean Schroeder.

**Stephen Rosenthal** In honor of Ron  
Edelman's Yovel bar mitzvah.

**Dmitri Rusov-Morningstar**

In memory of his beloved parents,  
Ruthie and Manny Morningstar.

**Shiloh, Miguel & Ben-Or Family** In  
honor of Todd Blair.

**Howard Steiermann** In honor of his  
father, Walter Steirman's birthday.

**Walter & Ilse Steirman** In honor of  
Richard & Alan's new adventure.

**Miriam Trentman & Robert Morelli** In  
memory of Robert's father, Rudy  
Morelli.

## High Holiday Donations

**Anonymous**

## High Holiday Pledges 5768

**Donald Abrams**

**Roberta Achtenberg**

**Anonymous**

**Marianne Balin**

**Judith Bell & James Greenberg**

**Ruthy Bennett**

**Ellen Berger**

**Claudia Bernard &**

**Howard Herman**

**Elliott Block**

**Diana Buchbinder &**

**Jeane Redsecker**

**Ali & Jessica Cannon**

**James Carlson**

**Henry Carrey**

**Troy Cascia**

**Gina Centanni**

**Kelly Cytron & Judy Hogan**

**Carol Dawson Rose**

**Eileen Dunn**

**Ron Edelman**

**Steve Elman**

**Jeremy Epstein**

**Martin Fox**

**James Frazin**

**Anne Friedman**

**Jeff Friedman**

**Alexandra Friedus**

**Fox Frohlich & Luca Cerbu**

**Andy Fyne**

**Mollie Fyne**

**Avraham Giannini**

**Allan Gold**

**Avi Goldberg & Will Garcia**

**Jonathan Goldberg**

**Rebecca Goldfader**

**Sarita Groisser**

**Howard Hahn**

**Tony Harris**

**Meagan Hessel**

**Judith Hibbard**

**Marjorie Hilsenrad** In honor of Ron  
Edelman's 50th bar mitzvah.

**Larry Horowitz**

**Nancy Igdaoff & Monica Levin**

**Alex Ingersoll &**

**Martin Tannenbaum**

**Jo Ellen & David Kaiser**

**Batya Kalis** In appreciation  
of Rabbi Angel.

In honor of staff & volunteers.

**Miriam Kapner**

**Lisa Katz**

**Rose Katz**

**Elliot Klein**

**Cynthia Kopec & Steve Berley**

**Walter Leiss**

**Shoshana Levenberg**

**Debbie Levy**

**Micah Lewis-Kraus**

**Gerry Llamado**

**Susan Lubeck & Richard Weiner**

**Richard Meyerson**

**Alan Michels & Laureen Kim**

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**Mark Pressler**

**Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz**



**Nina Raff & Annie Winters**

**Andrew Ramer**

**Jon Rosenberg**

**Michael Sarid**

**Karen Schiller**

**Rachel Schochet** In honor of the marriage of Tenaya Scheinman & John Schochet.

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**Craig Shear**

**Richard Sinkoff**

**Ilana Strubel**

**Martin Tilzer**

**Amy Toder**

**Susan Tubbesing**

**Maurice Urman**

**Jon Uytterlinde**

**Dana Vinicoff**

**Julia Weber &**

**Charles Fineberg**

**Randall Weiss**

**Steve Weitz**

**Alison Wellsfry**

**Steve Wiesner** In memory of Sol & Frances Magar.

In memory of Alex Magar.

In memory of Helen & Herman Wiesner.

In memory of Dolores Wiesner.

**Gail Zellman**

**Jonathan Zimman**

## Library Fund

**Avraham Giannini** In honor of Bernard Schertzer for his persistent devoted work with the library.

**Niki Rothman** In honor of Bernard Schertzer for his accomplishment of his completion of the library shelf project.

## Mishkan Dolores Phase 2

**Anonymous**

## Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

**Lucy Bernholz & Paula Fleisher** In memory of Lucy's grandmother, Gertrude Bernholz.

**Clarissa Kripke & Gail Ludwig**

**George Mintzer**

## Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

**James Carlson** In honor of Ron Edelman's Yovel bar mitzvah. In memory of Philip Tuzzolino.

**Jason Feinberg** In memory of Henry Leyser.

**Jonathan Funk** In memory of Bruce Evan Ross.

In memory of Henry Leyser.

**Jonathan Funk &**

**John Arnold** In memory of Bert Smook.

To welcome Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Jonathan Funk** In honor of Rabbi Angel.

**Rebecca Goldfader** In honor of Rebecca Weiner joining the CSZ community.

**Sara Haber & Beth Sousa**

In honor of Lydia & David Zinn's anniversary.

**Merle Malakoff &**

**Gina Surber**

**Ellen Murland &**

**Barbara Rinkoff** In memory of Paula Schwartz.

In memory of Milton Murland.

**Martin & Sharon Rostoker**

**Karen Schiller** In memory of her father, Jay Schiller.

**Miriam Trentman & Robert Morelli**

In memory of Miriam's father, Harry Trentman.

**Abigail Weissman** In honor of Robin Bowen.

**Steve Wiesner** In honor of Joe's 90th birthday. In memory of Eugene Kohn. In memory of Eugene and Ronit Wiesner.

## Ritual Fund

**Jo Ellen & David Kaiser** In honor of Ron Edelman's Yovel Bar Mitzvah.

## Social Action Fund

**Jo Ellen & David Kaiser** In honor of the bat mitzvah of Naomi Zingman Daniels.

## If you would like

- ★ To celebrate a naches
- ★ To remember a loved one
- ★ To honor friends and family
- ★ To support the CSZ community

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## October

5/6

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Mark Pressler** *In memory of Jeffrey Miller.*

Friday Night Live Dinner Generously Sponsored by **Alex, Jessie & Amir Austin**

12/13

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Ron Edelman** *In honor of his sister, Evelyn Slenker.*

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **The Membership Committee & The Va'ad** *In honor of all our members who have joined in the last year.*

26/27

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Lydia & David Zinn** *In honor of their wedding anniversary.*

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Beth Sousa & Sara Haber** *In honor of Lydia & David Zinn's wedding anniversary.*

Friday Childcare Generously Sponsored by **Lydia & David Zinn** *In honor of their wedding anniversary.*

## November

2/3

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Jeffrey Lilly** *In memory of Forrest Kincade.*

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Michael Bettinger & Robert Goldstein** *To celebrate the 20th anniversary of their Kiddushin*

9/10

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Richard Meyerson** *In honor of Eileen Lynette, Charlene O'Neill and Nancy Meyer.*

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Richard Meyerson** *In honor of Eileen Lynette, Charlene O'Neill and Nancy Meyer.*

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored in part by **A Synaplex Grant**

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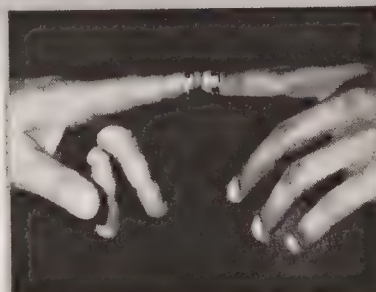
**Childcare: \$100**

**Flowers: \$120**

**Friday Night Live Dinner: \$100**

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## Thank Yous

Thank you to all who raised money, walked in, and supported the efforts of Suicide Prevention Walk. Together we raised \$1292 for suicide prevention, helping to erase the stigma surrounding suicide and its causes, to encourage those suffering from mental illness to seek treatment, to support people who suffer from depression, and to show support for the families and friends of those who die by suicide each year.

Thank you to the Folsom Street Fair CSZ Booth team, **Kevin, Bethany, Amy, Michael, Karen, and Judy**, for their fab attire, wonderful attitudes, promptness, and support.

Thank you to **Jim Acerra, Tony Enriquez, Marty, Shelli and Sadie Rawlings-Fein, Ora Prochovnick, Ellen Press, and Henry Carrey** for sweating in the sweltering sunshine as you stupendously represented Congregation Sha'ar Zahav at the Castro Street Fair!

Thank you to all of our members who helped to organize the successful and delicious New Member Brunch. And of course, thank you to all of our New Members. We couldn't have had this event or exist as this thriving community were it not for you!

A huge thank you to **Bernard Schertzer** who spent countless hours and energy on the renovation of CSZ's library. Furthermore, he donated the maplewood out of which the new shelves are made. Be sure to check out our new library and thank Bernard when you see him!

## Naches

Mazel tov to **Naomi Zingman-Daniels**, who became a Bat Mitzvah on September 29!

Mazel tov to **Susan Leff and Brad Post**, who became parents to **Frank Michael Post** on September 26.

Mazel tov to **Sharon Snyder and Barbara Braasch**, who became parents to **Simon Edward Snyder-Braasch and Michaela Renee Snyder-Braasch** on September 26.

Mazel Tov to **Ron Edelman**, who led services on Saturday as a Yovel Bar Mitzvah as he celebrated 50 years since



Yishar Koach to Kendra Lubalin for organizing the first Community-wide Havdallah on diversity, co-sponsored by B'Chol Lashon, Jimena, Jewish Mosaic, Nehirim, and Project Welcome. Close to 100 adults and children came for bingo and nosh, and then split into groups to talk, make art, sing and study. This photo shows one group discussing the "ritual tree," an art project highlighting the important ritual moments in our lives. Thanks to group leaders Rabbi Angel, Reuben Zellman, Andrew Ramer, Karen Segal, Rabbi Belser, Emily Blanck, Karen Kushner, Diane Tobin.

his first Bar Mitzvah. Way to go Ron!

Mazel Tov to **Mark Lipman** and Helen Cohen who were married at Point Reyes Station on October 7 by Rabbi Angel.

Yishar Koach to one of CSZ's most recent additions, **Lisa Finkelstein**, who has been appointed Director of the Jewish Community Federation's LGBT Alliance. Kudos Lisa!!!

Mazel Tov to **Jonathan Arnowitz** and **Minne Fekkes** on the birth of their daughter, and **Sarah Arnowitz** on the birth of her sister, **Esther Arnowitz**. Esther was born on October 20 at 1:07 pm, weighing 8 lbs 2 oz and measuring 19.5".

Yishar Koach to **Chanah Harei-Orr**, who has found a job that fits her passion! In November, Chanah became the new Music Director at the Noe Valley Ministry. Way to go Chanah!

## Rabbi About Town

Within the last couple of months, Rabbi Angel has:

Traveled to New York City to attend a Bikkur Cholim Seminar

Attended the welcoming of Lisa Finkelstein, CSZ Member, as the director of the LGBT Alliance

Attended the URJ Biennial in San Diego

Attended a talk by and met with Rabbi Arik Ascherman of Rabbis for Human Rights

Attended a Northern California Board of Rabbis study session with Rabbi Avi Weiss

Attended a Sherith Israel Program for Clergy with Rabbi Reuven Firestone

Hosted the SFOP Clergy Luncheon here at CSZ

Prepared for and Hosted CSZ's 6th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Attended Let Freedom Ring—An LGBT Marriage Equality Fundraiser

## New Members

We warmly welcome the following people as the newest members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav: **Lisa Finkelstein**; **Kim Gitnick** and her son, **River Gitnick-Castaneda**; **Rivkah Freund**; **Scott and Lynn Kaplan**, and their children **Alex**, a freshman at NYU, and **Cameron**, a 4th grader attending Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer; **Aubrey Harmon**; **Alana Herron** and her two daughters, **Rimona** and **Sofia Herron-Geller**.



# From Sideline to Byline

By Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

**F**ive years ago, when I first came to Sha'ar Zahav, I wondered if I had made the right choice. I was one of those people who "stand on the sidelines." I didn't know anyone. I often felt alone at events or in services. I'm sure people came up to me and said hello, but because I didn't know them, I still felt like a stranger.

Today, when I walk through the doors at 16th and Dolores, I feel at home. What changed?

I did.

After a year or so of feeling awkward one too many times, I decided I was either going to get involved in the synagogue or leave. I had joined in part because I loved the idea that lay people could lead services, so I began to ask everyone who led services how I could become a lay leader. I found out that all

I had to do was attend some ritual committee meetings and ask for a mentor to help me lead my first services. I have to admit, it took me almost six months to get to a meeting, but when I did, I was warmly welcomed and Ron Edelman took me under his wing.

I also had joined to give my daughter a Jewish education. I decided I should get involved in her education, and joined one of the learning waves, the galei limudim. I had a great experience doing that, and through that experience came to know many of the people who make Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer work.

Of course, once you stick your head out of your shell, you become fair game. When I got more involved, Va'ad member Karen Schiller immediately recognized that my professional editorial skills might be put to good use on the

newsletter. I finally succumbed, and now edit the bimonthly sheet you hold in your hands. It's a lot of work, but it's rewarding, and editing the newsletter gives me another way to be part of the larger community.

Now, when I go to services, I recognize many faces, and even get a few hugs. I know the parents at Beit Sefer. And, just as importantly, they all know me. I have become part of the community.

Even though we talk about "finding" community, what I've come to realize is that we don't actually find community; we make our communities through our own actions. Communities are based on relationships, and it takes (at least) two to tango. Wanna dance?

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## Lost Your Calendar?

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can always be found at  
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## Condolences

We extend heartfelt condolences to the following CSZ members on the death of their loved ones:

**Danny Kodmur**, on the death of his aunt, Toby Waxman-Root

**Nina Wouk**, on the death of her close family friend/"second mother", Patricia Cauthen

**Sue Bojdak, Deb Yates, Itai Bojdak-Yates, and Naftali Bojdak-Yates** on the death of Sue's grandfather, Louis Bojdak.

**Nicole Bloom, Sue Swigart, and Evan Blumensweig, (and Nicole's mother, Judy Bloom)** on the death of Nicole's grandfather, Marvin H. Gold

Former member and CSZ friend **Kipp Leyser**, on the death of his father, Henry Leyser.

**Susan Schwartz**, on the death of her

family friend, Murray Gallin

**Jim Acerra and Tony Enriquez**, on the death of Jim's mother, Blanche Acerra

**Jeffrey Lilly**, on the death of his friend James Giles

**Lynn Eden and Ruth Schoenbach**, on the death of their friend, Randall Forsberg

**Alan Michaels, Lorraine Kim, and Alapai Kim-Michaels** on the death of Alan's mother, Barbara Michaels

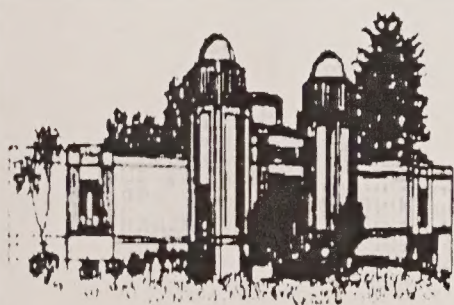
## Member Yahrzeits

### January

- 4 Cheryl Orvis
- 18 Keith Fenton
- 20 George Ash
- 22 Nathan Weinstein
- 22 Eli Weinstein
- 29 Ziggy Gimnicher

### February

- 1 Allen Harris
- 1 Steven Richter
- 2 Stephen Walters
- 4 John Atteridg
- 6 Ronald Wilmot
- 14 Barbara Rosenblum
- 15 Alan Ellis
- 17 Jason Gaber
- 23 Leland Vogel



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## Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch  
with all members of  
the CSZ family  
whenever there are  
occasions of joy or sadness  
in your lives.

Where there is a death  
in the family, please call  
me as soon as possible.

We very much want to  
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*Rabbi Camille  
Shira Angel*

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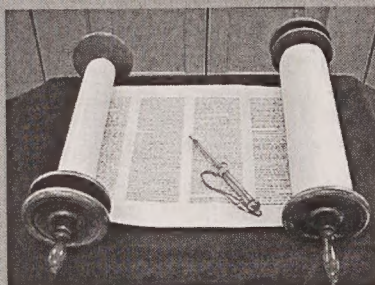
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